

Coastal States Organization Climate Change Work Group

Presented by Eddie Fisher, Chair Gulf of Mexico Region, CSO

Tom Calnan, TX

David Carter, DE

Sarah Cooksey, DE

Stephen Dickson, ME

Eddie Fisher, TX

Steven Goldbeck, CA

Jennifer Hennessey, WA

Charles Hernick, MA

Terry Howie, LA

Zoë Johnson, MD

Julia Knisel, MA

Gary Lytton, FL

Anne McMahon, CA

Tony Pratt, DE

Ben Rhame, TX

Rebecca Roth, CA

Jeff Warren, NC

John Watkins, OH

Jeff Weber, OR

Gulf of Mexico Resiliency Workgroup

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Charge of the Climate Change Work Group

1) Track and Respond to Federal Legislation

- *Worked w/ CSO staff in reviewing/editing House & Senate energy bills*

2) Assess the current activities & needs of coastal states and territories

- *Report: “Role of CZM Programs in Adaptation to Climate Change”*

3) Develop Draft CSO Policy Statement on Climate Change

- *Now Drafting CSO Policy Statement*
- *Also reviewed/submitted comments on federal climate change report*



Report Findings

- **CZM Program ‘Climate Change’ initiatives were limited...**
 - All focus on related hazards – erosion, flooding, hurricanes
 - Several involved in Governors’ Climate Change initiatives...
 - Most initially focused on accelerated rate of sea level rise
- **Coastal impacts may also include...**
 - Changes in freshwater quality/quantity
 - Changes in lake levels (Great Lakes)
 - Ocean acidification / physical changes (thermal stratification)
 - Invasive species/species migrations/habitat loss



Adaptation Activities

- State “Sea Level Rise Strategy” reports/workshops
(Maryland, California, Rhode Island & North Carolina)
- Sea level rise inundation mapping and vulnerability assessments
(Maine, New Jersey, Maryland & others)
- General shoreline management initiatives
(South Carolina, Delaware, Washington)
- Extension/Outreach activities
(California, Rhode Island, Texas & others)



Adaptation Policies

Specific sea level rise policies/strategies:

- Public infrastructure siting policies
- Wetland conservation and restoration policies
- Add “freeboard” above base flood elevation
- Address Sea Level Rise in regional/local plans
- Land acquisition/conservation priorities
- GIS-based decision-support tools

Research Needs

- High resolution topography/bathymetry (LIDAR)
- Guidance/support on inundation and shoreline change modeling and monitoring
- Impacts of accelerated sea level rise on coastal habitats (wetlands)
- Economic studies, potential impacts to infrastructure
- Role of sea level rise in beach nourishment frequency and volumetric requirements
- Policy analyses related to shoreline “retreat” & armoring
- Projections of other climate change impacts



Governance Needs

A clear federal strategy for intergovernmental coordination on coastal adaptation

- Outline roles/activities of federal agencies/programs
- Improve coordination between CZM, FEMA, & ASFPM
 - Flood Map Modernization
 - Community Rating System
 - No Adverse Impact in the Coastal Zone (ASFMP and NOAA)
- Coordinate through Regional Partnerships
- Recognize and strengthen the CZMA



Role of CZM in Adaptation to CC

Report presentations

- Federal Coastal Coordination Committee
- Council on Environmental Quality Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources
- NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science
- U.S. Climate Change Program
- CZ07 Special Session
- Florida Atlantic Law School Conference
- SE Regional CZM Meeting
- Gulf of Mexico Resiliency Workgroup



DRAFT CSO Policy Statement

Three Key Questions for Consideration:

1. How lengthy should the report be?
 - a) How much background information?
 - b) Should CSO provide specific examples of needs for federal support and coordination for research needs?
2. Should any new Climate Change section or provisions of the CZMA be mandatory or voluntary?
3. Should CSO ask for specific funding levels in the policy? (Phased, \$15 million – \$100 million)



Next Steps...

- **Continuation of the work group to address:**
 - Further development of policy statement will occur at the Spring CSO Meeting in Washington DC in late February 2008
 - Ongoing legislative proposals, CZMA development
- **Call for new Chair**
- **Call for new members**

